2020 CHANGES

Doshi Richard Van Donk is very happy to share with you some very exciting history making developments at the International Bujinkan Dojo Association (IBDA).

We are now at an historic turning point in our beloved Takamatsu-den arts. This may be one of the biggest changes to happen over the last several hundred years. The last momentous change like this one was when Takamatsu-Sensei transferred the 9 schools to Hatsumi-Sensei in 1972, just a short time before his passing, and Hatsumi-Sensei later organized the 9 schools into what he called the Bujinkan (*Divine Warrior House/Hall*).

In a rare historical move Hatsumi-Sensei has now passed these schools *(aka Ryu)* which he inherited from Takamatsu-Sensei individually, to senior Japanese Bujinkan DaiShihan. The nine schools now have eight new Sokes. I am told there will no longer be one Bujinkan under one Soke, but that could change. I want to firmly express that IBDA remains as it has always been structured and will still carry on all of the nine Ryu traditions with many exciting additions to the training starting now. *More on that later below.*

Hatsumi-Sensei, now age 88, started several years ago in making his shift towards retirement. His first action, in late 2017, was to eliminate all Bujinkan membership affiliations for both instructors and individuals at the hombu dojo. In other words, he canceled the long standing Bujinkan Shidoshi-Kai Instructors Association and he cancelled the Bujinkan Student Membership affiliation as well. PLEASE LET THAT SINK IN: *there has been No Memberships, of any kind, at the hombu dojo for several years*, something that had always been required since I first started in the 1980's.

At that same time, Hatsumi-Sensei also authorized DaiShihan to issue official Bujinkan membership cards in place of the hombu doing this. Some DaiShihan, like DaiShihan Richard Van Donk took on this responsibility and others chose not to. And also, at this same time, Hatsumi-Sensei repeatedly told all Bujinkan students to align with a DaiShihan as they would be carrying on the arts when he stopped teaching.

He began telling senior Bujinkan DaiShihan, like myself, that we had learned what he had to teach and that we did not need to come back to Japan for training (*although IMHO-there will always be much to learn from him)*. On my last experience with him in Japan, Soke Hatsumi granted me his blessing and told me to just go carry on the arts in the way that I see best. We both knew that was most likely our last physical moment together in this life. We had amazing times together, all over the world, both in and out of the dojo. I was blessed to have spent so much personal time with this very incredible human being and most amazing martial arts master. Our hearts were heavy with our love for each other and my heart was deep with gratitude. It has been the most magical journey with my teacher and friend. I will always treasure my relationship with Hatsumi-Sensei both on and off the mat.

I deeply respect and admire Hatsumi-Sensei's choice to pass the Sokeships of the schools separately, one-by-one, to senior Japanese DaiShihan students, ending all the schools being under a united Bujinkan. I am most happy for these gentlemen and pray for their ability to properly carry on these traditions. However, I will not be aligning with any one of these new Sokes as I am a DaiShihan of Hatsumi-Sensei myself and also have some 40 years training in se arts. Soke Hatsumi made me a personal student of his in a special ritual at Ishizuka's dojo in 1986. So, I have chosen to continue to lead the IBDA as directed by my teacher, Hatsumi-Sensei. That is my best calling for myself and my students. I took a very long time and consideration to make this decision as I am well aware that it affects many people besides myself. Truly, the lineage lives on by all of us that train in the arts.

Over the years Hatsumi-Sensei has given me every award, title, or rank grading possible short of an actual Sokeship. He even unexpectedly sent me one of his Soke Red/Gold patches with no explanation. I feel that the schools should all stay in Japan. I feel that Hatsumi-Sensei did the right thing and fully support him. In a way it is much, much better for me/IBDA to represent all the schools under one umbrella as I experienced them, instead of being responsible for the history of just one school. That is a gift that I accept.

Please clearly note that it was Soke Hatsumi that granted me the *American Bujinkan Dojo* name back in 1986. Later he personally granted the *International Bujinkan Dojo Association* name and approved and encouraged my heading the IBDA organization as he stated to me that I was the best to handle this.

So today, on April 2nd, 2020, I step away from the past relationship and responsibly lead the *International Bujinkan Dojo Association* (IBDA) in its new direction to stand on its own to carry on the lineage of Takamatsu-Den arts. I do this with many exciting changes.

In taking on this responsibility in moving the arts forward with IBDA I needed extreme clarity on the future. So, I took a deep look at what I love, what inspired me to start

training, and what inspires me to train every day of my life. I took a deep look at what we/I offer in the form of teachings. I took a deep look at what I feel are the weaknesses that are in the Bujinkan. I took a deep look at what I feel needs to change in those regards to make the ancient arts more modern and effective in all contexts. I have always been inspired by the ancient arts and the spiritual, non-religious, aspects of the arts.

To my amazement, I have almost 40 years in the Bujinkan and over 50 in the martial arts. The knowledge that we at IBDA already offer to the general public, such as the Bujinkan Ninjutsu Master Course that is designed to take you from beginner to Master Instructor, is vast and beyond any other known informational study base. In training, researching, codifying, teaching and embodying the arts since 1981 I have experienced so much that is not in the current curriculum. So, we are going to add many, many things to it over time. I also will now be sharing it all in the way that I always have wanted to do without concern or limitation.

"***Ancient Arts for Modern Times***" has been the dojo theme since one of my students, Gabriel Borsay coined that term for me in 1988. In those days we loved and explored Ninpo Taijutsu / Ninjutsu aspects, the 18 skills and non-dojo training. We did all the outdoor stuff both before and after getting a dojo to train in. We loved the Ninja Stuff. The Warrior-Monk concepts. I loved the Nin over the heart on the uniforms. I loved the old teachings of Ten Chi Jin (Heaven Earth Man), the Junan Undo - Junan Taiso - Amatsu empowerments, Meditation, Kuji-in practices of Gyokko Ryu, Natural Esoteric teachings of the Dao/Shinto gates they were birthed through. I loved real training that did not larp and got the fight finished in seconds.

At IBDA we never really left all of that, but it is not openly shared from that perspective as the core focus and the deeper spiritual aspects have been more for the advanced ranks. Open but veiled. Time to bring it forward.

Over the years, I was deeply criticized for teaching Ninjutsu as the art of awareness *(I specifically open my 9th kyu video with that phrase)* and for continuing using things like meditation or kuji-in or even making students do junan taiso at the start of every class. People even argued that Ninjutsu did not even exist anymore or that Ninpo Taijutsu is the same as Budo Taijutsu. I lived it deeply with Soke Hatsumi as a guide and I do not agree. Just another way of veiling the truth. Kyojitsu (虚実, "Art of Truth and Falsehood"). Time to lift the veil. ☺

To them I say, do what you want in your dojo and I will do what I want in mine.
It is of great fortune for me to just represent the art as I love them. Of course, I will draw deeply from the near 40 years of research, insight, and experience, learning what I have from Hatsumi-sensei and then adding all that is needed to embody the perfect art. There are so many hidden teachings that I personally learned in my private time with Hatsumi-sensei that I have so much wanted to share. Things that he asked me to wait on. That time is now, and he has given me permission to do so. The reason that I

went to Japan in the first place was to study the esoteric arts deeper and to learn the sword. Time to bring forward what was once hidden or not shared openly to the right people and at the right level of study.

IBDA FOCUS

"Living Empowered" will be the entire focus of training while living the martial arts path. Empowered not just in martial skill, but also in mind, body, spirit and life. ***Shin Gi Tai Ichi*** (mind, body, spirit, and skill in harmony) is the training theme and will be started at 9th kyu and enhanced with deeper practices into Judan levels. I will film entry kyu level videos on this to make this very clear for all students before joining and in time, adding this study to the existing Shodan course. EVERYONE will be updated no matter when you enrolled in the studies that you have, so keep studying what you already have as we integrate the new material. Those that have the Shodan Binder Course version will get access to updates in an Online Platform or can get a special deal for the full online version.

While having a strong martial set of teachings we will also be learning the arts in terms of Ninpo, Esoteric knowledge- like Kuji-in, Ninjutsu skills, Budo Taijutsu, Ten Chi Jin, Amatsu Tatara and Daoist teachings. Plus, we will be adapting many different punching styles and true Bujinkan ground fighting-skills (YES, it exists fully).

So Please note: Continue studying the current IBDA material as we will NOT be getting rid of any of it! We will, *over time*, be adding to it. Some things, as they need to be, will be integrated into the new ranking structure.

ADDRESSING RICHARD VAN DONK AS DOSHI-

As far as how to address me from now on, please refer to me as Doshi… Shihan, Grandmaster, Soke (as headmaster of IBDA not Bujinkan), and Sensei are also okay. I will no longer answer to DaiShihan, for me that seems to just be a glorious ego title – you are either a role model or you aren't. And honestly, I don't want to hear this 'Die Shihan' chant for the rest of my life. I just want to be *DOSHI*, meaning a Way Shower or Shower of the Way as the title Doshi implies. Thanks!

NEW PROJECTS

While I am working on all of these great IBDA training additions in 2020, many other things are going on. As a group project, **IBDA ONLY** students *(this means enrolled in an IBDA dojo or Course AND have received rank from me- NO EXCEPTIONS)* and myself are working on an **18 Skills of the Ninja Project**. If you have an expertise in one of these 18 Skills and want to donate your skills to the project, then let us know. We have a private Facebook Page for this and are using Dropbox for the Project. We also are in

need of a graphics artist and a video master to make the submitted footage more uniform and look great. This will be an exciting training once it is done!

The IBDA Master Council will be working on the Koto Ryu Material this year.

So many wonderful changes and the biggest reveals will be shared at the upcoming July Tai Kai in Carson City, NV., where we will all practice many of the new teachings in an integrated fashion for the first time. Hope to see you there!!

I thank you for your support and at very least your understanding on why I have chosen this new path. May all be blessed by this art.

Until next time,

Doshi Richard Van Donk

2020 CHANGES

IBDA Curriculum Additions and Focus -

The entire focus of IBDA will be on **"Living Empowered"** as a martial artist and a human being. Not just in martial skill, but in mind, body, spirit and life.
Shin Gi Tai Ichi is the theme and goal.

Warrior-Monk - The focus of the training is to forge warriors with heart. To live empowered. To work towards personal mastery as we study the martial path. To learn from the relationship of taijutsu in forms of communication. To learn our own nature. *Shin Gi Tai Ichi*. To embody the ancient arts through a spiritual (non-religious) gateway as we build our skillset to overcome all injustice while we are maintaining peace and resolve in our hearts. To give back to the art and to the world.

Amatsu-Junan Taiso – Self Healing and rejuvenation methods
As I get older, I realize that advanced body conditioning methods need to be shared more by me and I need to further encourage every student to practice this much deeper. I had the great opportunity to learn so much from Hatsumi-sensei at dojo classes in Japan and at his home privately. I have also studied many healing modalities for over 35 years including Amatsu teachings. We will enhance the current Junan Taiso and add the advanced Self-Healing Amatsu practices that come from Daoist healing and empowerment methods.

Ninpo Taijutsu – Is a philosophy for living based on the principles of NIN which can be read as perseverance or patience which requires one to be fully resolved, centered, embodying presence of calm but ready to act. Almost like Zanshin but in a posture of composure while ready to win at all costs. It is primarily the higher order of Ninjutsu as it demands knowing your own nature and spiritual refinement. Let the physical taijutsu training also teach you lessons about how to apply and master your life.

Techniques Training Theme Concept-
First learn the mechanics of the technique.
Then make it flow without choppiness or effort.
Then make it flow as a light, non-harmful combat method.
Then learn it as realistic fight finish.
No non-realistic, non-resistant, non-countering, or wimpy practice. We use other

punches versus just long style Ichimonji. The techniques must work instantaneously! Everything shall be immediately adaptable for fight finishing methods.

Fight Finishing not just arm submission and stop. Fight finishing set pattern drills will be a standard model that can be instantly added from several key positions in any context. Every counter is a reflection of implied intent.

Ground Fighting- Ninpo Ne Waza- This is a must addition to the training. This is what people also want to learn when coming to a dojo, but we will Not focus on staying on the ground as other systems do. Ground fighting is in the Bujinkan, but most have missed it. I taught a class with Nagato on this at the hombu dojo. There is a lot that you do standing up that you can do on the ground. Much of it comes from Takagi Yoshin Ryu. Shihan Brian Sumpter will lead this and it will all be from Bujinkan schools.

Punching Styles- We will include all punching- style strikes (and defenses) not just Ichimonji.

Waza are our Only guides. Wazas are a great guide to learning the art and aspects of a school. Each school should be deeper studied than just a few wazas. Go through them all and learn at least five of them well enough to demonstrate them at any time, if asked to. Learn the feeling of the nature of the school. Learn the spacing and the timing of the attacks and defenses. Then practice many variations. Then add weapons to the wazas to make them come more alive.

Realistic Combat - No wimpy training. See Combat Ninjutsu DVD. We included All punching styles - not just Ichimonji. We apply Resistance training and Countering methods/drills. **Implied Intent of attack** is used to gauge the level of force applied in response.

18 Skills of the Ninja and Ten Chi Jin *(Heaven, Earth and Man).* We must deeply adapt the core of these arts that have survived from Ancient times. They did not just train in these things. THEY LIVED THEM AS A WAY OF LIFE. These are the skills that they used to daily condition the body, enlighten the mind, and use martially in combat in order to survive, live and protect their families and country. Much of this training will seem exotic to us. The deeper you go the more natural you will find it and the more you will understand why these methods have survived for over a thousand years.

IBDA RANKING SYSTEM

MY CONCEPT OF RANKING –

While rank is a relationship between the student and the teacher it should also be a representation of the art itself and a measurement of where you are on the budo path.

I feel that rank should have meaning and should be properly earned by studying specific information and having the proper taijutsu to administer it. Our required strategic grading curriculum is most often much more than most all other Bujinkan schools so our grades cannot really be compared to other schools at all. IBDA has always been different in this regard. We have a solid, progressive standard we grade by and most others do not.

I really want to make it very clear that our rank grades are *Not* the same as other Bujinkan instructors- they never have been and they never will be. This is NO offense to ANYONE else. Everyone has the right to do things as they feel that they should. I write this just to provide a clarity for IBDA students because this understanding must become clear as we are completely changing the way that we recognize your progress in the arts. Also, the additional studies will be setting IBDA apart from most Bujinkan schools. We will study the complete Takamatsu-den/Hatsumi-den arts.

Ranking with IBDA is based on 3 things: Specific knowledge learned, taijutsu ability, and character development. You will earn your ranks and you can be proud of your grade because you know that you earned it. There will also be time in grade requirements, as knowledge needs to be embodied as well as learned and that takes time.

TESTING

Current Curriculum testing methods remain for both Kyu and Dan levels with the following additions and changes. Over time we will also test on the material to be added at each level.

10th DAN IBDA RANKING STRUCTURE

10th DAN SYSTEM-

IBDA Ranking will go back to a 9th KYU to 10th DAN system *(with 5 Happo Biken Chi, Sui, Ka, Fu, Ku elemental levels)* in Ninpo Taijutsu and not Budo Taijutsu. We will no longer use the very confusing and non-customary martial arts ranks of 11th-15th dan designations. *(This is something that Soke Hatsumi never intended – it always was to be 5 elemental levels of Judan)*. Current IBDA Judans should see the deeper explanations in Judan level description below in time in grade. Side Note: When I started with Hatsumi-Sensei we wore the NIN symbol over the heart on the uniforms and we studied Ninpo Taijutsu. My rank certifications were in Ninpo Taijutsu and the very highest grade possible was 9th Dan. I was one of the very few that achieved that certificate. Experiencing the art this way has influenced my deciding to go back to these roots.

TEACHER LEVELS-

- **Teacher** - **Shidoshi-ho** is given after both the achievement of Shodan (1st degree BlackBelt) and passage of the Teachers Training. We consider this license as a full teaching license and no longer a junior teaching license due to the time in grade and the requirement to actually pass a how to teach course.
- **Master Teacher – Shidoshi** is awarded at Godan, 5th Dan, after passing the Sakki Test. This is a MASTERS designation due to the amount of material, time in grade to obtain and years of dedication to the art.

Teachers Training Course Requirement–

To become a certified IBDA instructor, Shidoshi-ho you will be required to have gone through our deep training in how to teach and how to pass the art on. You must learn how to teach responsibly. There are several advanced teaching titles that you can earn as you progress in dan levels and knowledge.

IBDA Shidoshi-Kai -

There will be established an IBDA Shidoshi-Kai Teachers Association establishing a registry of active IBDA Instructors to be posted on the www.Ninjustu.com instructor page website. Your contact details will also be listed for students to locate you. There will be an annual membership fee of $100. The Shidoshi-Kai membership also will allow the Instructor to order rank grade promotions to be issued IBDA for their students at a discount and to get wholesale pricing on IBDA study materials for their students. All IBDA instructors must rank grade through IBDA to be considered an IBDA instructor. **More details at membership.**

TIME IN GRADE REQUIREMENTS-

Our training goal is personal development and personal empowerment as we learn the martial skills at each level of training. Your rank with IBDA shares with everyone where you are on the path with us and in the arts. It is one thing to learn how to do something and another to embody that into all of you to the point that it is natural. That most often takes time to settle in. We want knowledge and life application to be your goal and not chasing a rank. We want rank to reflect your advancement.

9th KYU to 1st KYU – 9th kyu Test can be taken after 3 months from your starting in the dojo or distance learning program. Expect approximately 3 months between Kyu levels. Your next test date is to be given at the time of test by your instructor, as it depends on how well that you are doing and length between your previous tests. At every test from dojo or by distance you will be given a set of protocols to be worked on to better your taijutsu or to perfect for your next test.

SHODAN 初段 **-** Test can be taken after 2.5 years from your 9th kyu

NIDAN 弐段 **–** test can be taken on the Gyokko Ryu Course 2 Years after the Shodan completion date. In-depth knowledge of the school will be needed.

SANDAN 参段 **-** Test can be taken on the Shinden Fudo Ryu Course 2 Years after the Shodan completion date. In-depth knowledge of the school will be needed.

YONDAN 四段 **-** Test can be taken on the Takagi Yoshin Ryu Course 2 Years after the Shodan completion date. In-depth knowledge of the school will be needed.

The reason for the 2 years between actual testing dates for each grade is that it takes at least that to really study the material provided for each level. Too much rushing to learn 5 wazas for a test was happening. Adding to the fact that Godan / Shidoshi level will now be considered a Master Teacher Level.

GODAN 五段 - Test can be taken on the Budo Taijutsu Course 2 Years after the Yondan completion date. In-depth knowledge of this training will be needed.
Sakki Sword test with a Shinai remains. It can be taken with Doshi Van Donk 2 years from your Yondan Certificate date at a Tai Kai or Seminar with other senior instructors there to witness the test. Other IBDA Master Council Judans will be properly trained and certified to give this test.

ROKYU DAN 六段 - Test can be taken on the Koto Ryu Course 3 Years after the Shodan completion date. In-depth knowledge of the school will be needed.

NANADAN 七段 **– HACHIDAN** 八段 – Test can be taken 3 Years after the previous grade. For these levels choose a school to master and go deep into that study. In the

future starting at 7th Dan you can also earn rank recognition in that individual school. Example is being 8th dan with a Focus in Koto Ryu.

KYUDAN – Time to be determined by Doshi and the council – 20 years total is to be expected. Focus is to be on Sword and Shin Gi Tai Ichi…

JUDAN - Focus is to be on Shin Gi Tai Ichi – time to be determined by Doshi and the Master council. 25 years total is to be expected. You will be required to take a Real blade, Shinken 真剣 sword test. Plus you will write a Thesis or publish a Book on the arts. When accomplished Bushindo University will grant you a Phd. In the Martial Arts.

Judan has 5 Grade levels:

- 10th Dan Judan
- 10th Dan Judan Chigyo Happo Biken – EARTH (Judan – Chi level)
- 10th Dan Judan Suigyo Happo Biken – WATER (Judan – Sui level)
- 10th Dan Judan Kagyo Happo Biken – FIRE (Judan – Ka level)
- 10th Dan Judan Fugyo Happo Biken – AIR (Judan – Fu level)
- 10th Dan Judan Kugyo Happo Biken – SPACE (Judan – Ku level)

At IBDA we do NOT refer to these levels as 11th dan to 15th dan, instead simply stated it would be Judan Ka level. Briefly, for the advancement in the Happo Biken levels of Judan you will study aspects of the Elements in relation to the Do/Dao, training and their life. Think of these awards as merit badges for advanced learning and your contributions to the art and/or your contributions to your community. Giving back is the most important aspect of these 5 Happo Biken grades of Judan. These grades are awarded by IBDA headmaster Doshi Richard Van Donk Soke at his discretion and guidance.

TITLES **SHOGO (称号)**

Deshi - 弟子 - “disciple, pupil”)
Sensei 先生 - One who has gone before…. teacher
Shidoshi-ho - Teacher at 1st dan after completing teacher training course.
Shidoshi - 士道師 Master Teacher - 5th Dan
Rendoshi 錬士 - 6th Dan polished / expert Shower
Kyodoshi 教士 - 7th Dan Philosophy professor
Handoshi 範士 - 8th Dan / 9th Dan Senior master / model
Shihan Shidoshi 師範 士道師 - 10th Dan (5 levels)
Doshi – Soke/Head of Family

RANKING CERTIFICATES-

IBDA Rank Certification, as of April 2, 2020 will be administered and issued by the **International Bujinkan Dojo Association** (IBDA) and the grades will be in **Ninpo Taijutsu** for both Kyu and Dan grades.

Your next rank advancement certification will be stamped and signed by Doshi and Shihan Linda. It is our intent that higher dan grades can/will be stamped and signed by IBDA Master Council members as well.

PAST IBDA GRADING STANDS-

Please note that I have always graded my students with this deeper standard. Your current IBDA grade is recognized and you just move up from there. You have learned with this standard and we have graded with this standard. Be proud of your accomplishments.

WANT AN ADDITIONAL IBDA ISSUED CERTIFICATE FOR A CURRENT GRADE?
If you want to be issued an IBDA certificate for the IBDA rank grade level that you already have with us then that can be done for an issuance + shipping fee by emailing the Bushindo University office with that request at info@ninjutsu.com. Otherwise, work on your next level material, pass the test and then you will get the new rank certification at that time.

PATCHES / BELTS

PATCHES Change from the Bujinkan Patch to a newly designed IBDA NIN symbol in the center with the Bujin on the sides- Our patches will have a level designation on them such as Deshi, Sensei, Shidoshi-ho, Shidoshi, Shihan. Ninpo Taijutsu is written on the bottom below the Nin.

Deshi (弟子) ("disciple, pupil"), has the white in the center Nin as this here represents purity. You are starting at the Yang/ outer /omote door. The red is the blood of the heart surrounded by the pure white light circle.

Sensei (先生) ("one who has gone before, teacher"), has the Black in the center Nin as this here represents knowledge added. You are now at the Yin / inner / ura door. The gold light illuminates the circle.

Shidoshi (士道師) (Master teacher of the way), has the Black in the center Nin with the gold light around the black and with outside. This represents that you by having passed the sensitivity sword test and have gained knowledge of the arts enough that you have/are blending the Yin and the Yang. The gold light illuminates the circle.

Shihan (師範) (Role Model), has the Purple in the center Nin with the gold light around the black and outside. This represents that you have/are mastering the *Shin Gi Tai Ichi* and embody the awakening of the higher spiritual inner vision by having passed the live sword. The gold light of wisdom illuminates the circle.

STARS Above the Patch

IBDA Deshi Kyu levels-
1. MuKyu (無級) - None
2. Kyus 9th, 8th, 7th - White Stars
3. Kyus 6th - 3rd - Yellow Stars
4. Kyus 2nd and 1st - Silver Stars

Dan- 1st to 4th - Silver Stars
Shidoshi Godan - Gold Stars
Judan – Gold stars for each additional level

BELT COLOR SYSTEM

We fully adapt the original belt color system that I used successfully in my Santa Cruz dojo in the 80's. The colored belt system worked wonderfully because as instructors we could immediately, by a quick look, know what level a student's taijutsu level should be in order to better help them grow in the art. This method gives better rewards and incentive to strive to the next color level. Please be patient and understanding in our transition.

IBDA Deshi Kyu levels-

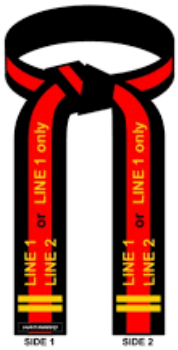
1. MuKyu (無級) - White Belt
2. Kyus 9th, 8th, 7th - Yellow Belt - White Stars
3. Kyus 6th - 3rd - Green Belt - Yellow Stars
4. Kyus 2nd and 1st – Brown Belt - Silver Stars

Dan- Black IBDA Sensei
Dan- Black IBDA Shidoshi-ho

Shidoshi Godan Plus-

Red stripe in center of Black belt beginning at 5th dan. A gold stripe on the ends of the belt are added for each dan advancement.

5th Dan – no stripe
6th Dan – 1 stripe
7th Dan – 2 stripes
8th Dan – 3 stripes
9th Dan – 4 stripes



Judan/ Shihan–

Red Satin Belt with Gold stripe on ends of belt for each elemental level awarded- use gold stars above patches

Doshi/Soke -
Red Satin Belt with Gold stripe on all edges of the belt

Thank you so much for taking the time to read and study the above. I know that all of this seems large at the moment, and perhaps it should, because it is.

I invite you to read this several times to get any clarification that you may need. More will be clarified as time permits and needs arise. I have done my best to give you a concise overview. Know that many things written here will take time to be integrated into brochures, books, manuals, websites, etc. Have patience. ☺

I thank you for being a part of this epic adventure. Together we carry on the arts. May we all grow together.

Until next time,
Doshi

In a Nutshell this is what we offer at IBDA. Lifestyle – Knowledge – Personal Empowerment

- The entire focus of IBDA is on "Living Empowered" as a martial artist and a human being. Not just in martial skill, but in mind, body, spirit and life. ***Shin Gi Tai Ichi*** is the goal from the beginning.
- **"Ancient Arts for Modern Times"** has been our theme since late 1980s.
- **Warrior - Monk training.** A non-religious spiritual path where you learn the arts of Awareness, Meditation, and even Kuji-In. In studying **Ninpo Taijutsu** our uniform patches have the NIN symbol on them along with your status title.
- Our **Martial Skill Taijutsu** focus is totally Ninpo Taijutsu, and Budo Taijutsu is studied as well. Our IBDA issued ranks are in Ninpo Taijutsu.
- **Ranking is based on 3 things**: specific knowledge learned, taijutsu ability, and character development. You will earn the ranks and you can be proud of your grade because you know that you earned it. Time requirements in grades.
- **10th DAN System** (5 elemental levels -no 11th-15th Dans)
- **Teachers Training Course –** Our instructors will have gone through a deep training in how to teach and how to pass the art on. You learn how to teach responsibly. There are several teaching titles that you can earn.
- **Teacher** – Shidoshi-ho is given after Shodan and passage of the Teachers Training. This is a full teachers license.
- **Master Teacher – Shidoshi** is awarded at Godan, 5th Dan, after passing the Sakki Test.
- **IBDA Knowledge-** Unprecedented learning and study materials from Beginner to Master Teacher. Dojo, Binder/DVD Courses or All Online Study Portal filled with at least 25 years of study material. Endless.
- **GroundFighting -** Ninpo Ne Waza all taken from the Bujinkan schools methods.
- **Amatsu and Junan Taiso** body conditioning and self-healing methods.
- **Bujinkan fight finishes.** Not just submission and stop.
- **Realistic Combat -** No wimpy training. See Combat Ninjutsu DVD. We included All punching styles - not just ichimonji. We apply Resistance training and Countering methods/drills.
- **Weapons** – We study ancient, exotic and modern weapons as well as the mind.
- **18 Skills of the Ninja and Ten Chi Jin** *(Heaven, Earth and Man).*
- **IBDA Master Council** to carry the art on for the future.
- **Membership and Community**